

**BRIGADE**  
**DEFENSIVE**  
**OPERATIONS**

# **PURPOSE OF THE DEFENSE**

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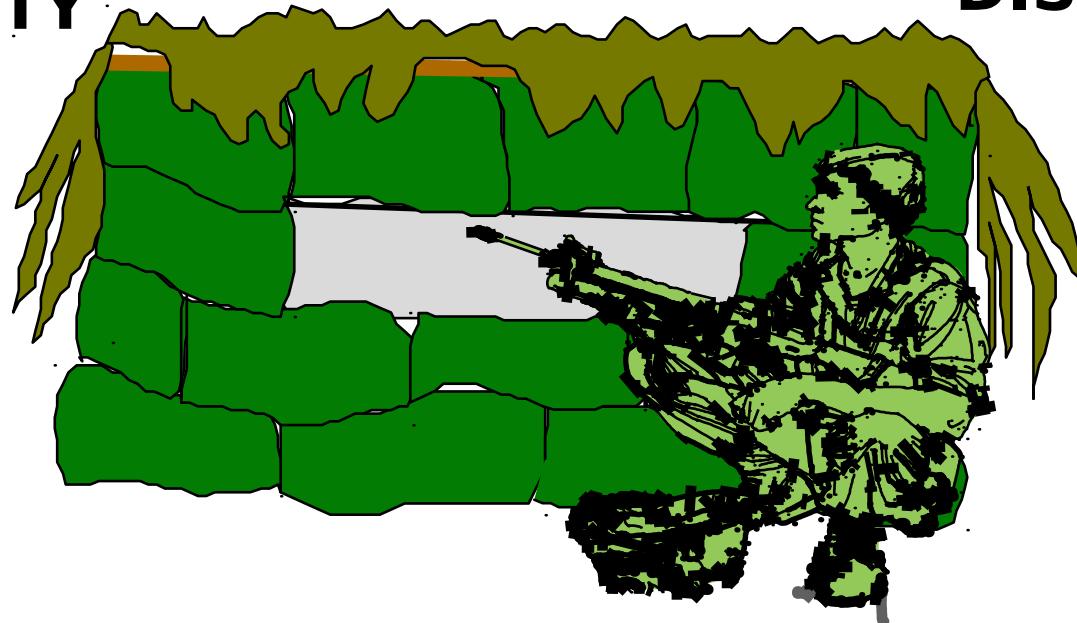
- To cause an enemy attack to fail.**
- To regain the tactical initiative or create the opportunity for higher HQ to shift the offensive.**

# CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DEFENSE

**PREPARATION**

**SECURITY**

**DISRUPTION**



**FLEXIBILITY**

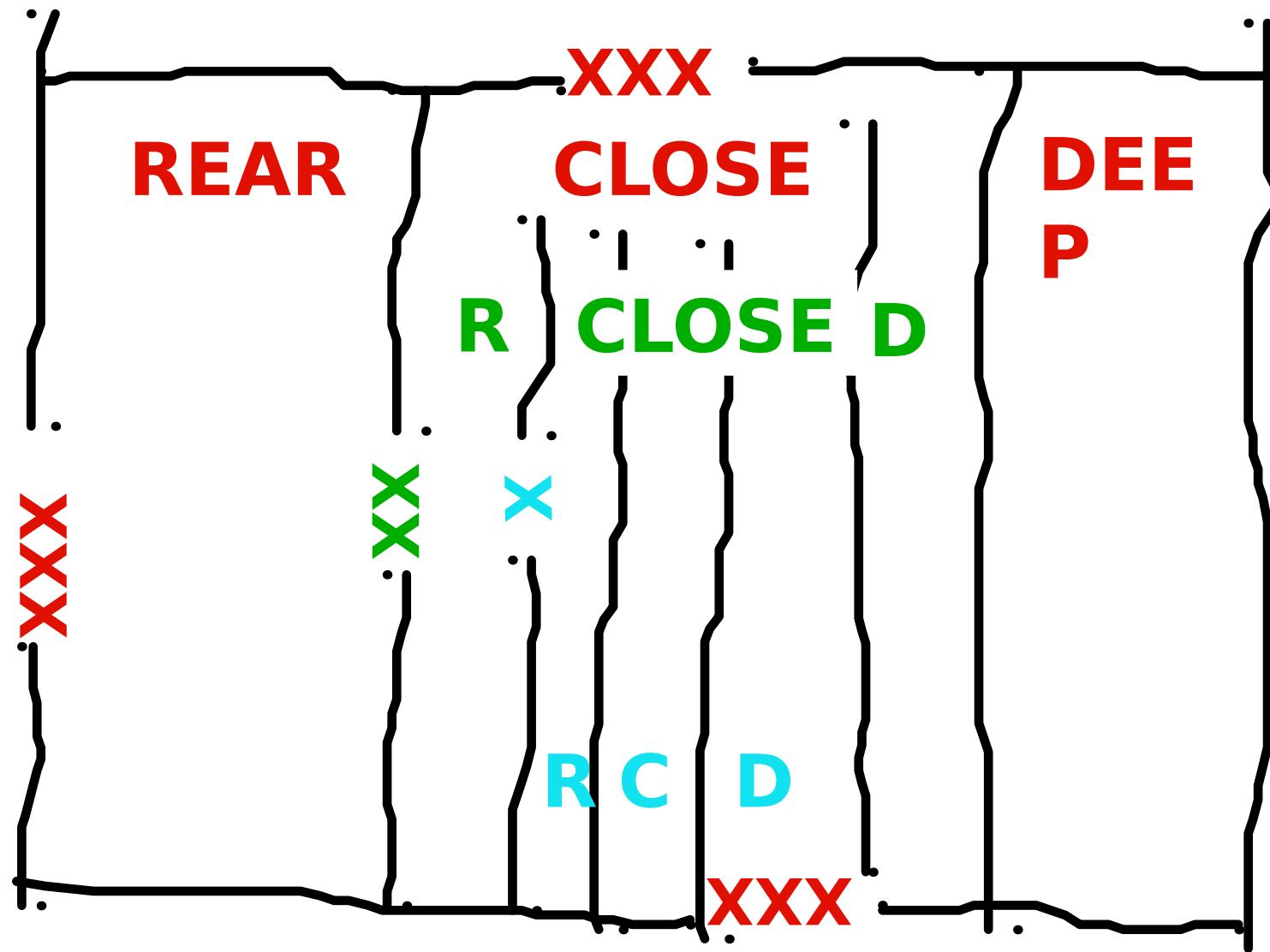
**MASS & CONCENTRATION**

# **DEFENSIVE** **FRAMEWORK**

**The brigade commander conducts simultaneous operations in depth and organizes the battle into three complimentary elements:**

- Deep Operations**
- Close Operations**
- Rear Operations**

# BATTLEFIELD FRAMEWORK



# **DEEP OPERATIONS**

**Operations directed against enemy forces at functions beyond the close battle (FLOT).**

- **Brigades normally require augmentation (A)**
- **Brigades may also maneuver cross FLOT as part of the division's deep attack.**

# **CLOSE OPERATIONS**

**For defensive operations, the close area is divided into 3 sub-areas:**

- Security Area.**
- Main Battle Area.**
- Reserve.**

# **SECURITY AREA**

- The battlespace found between the FEBA and the FLOT.
- Brigades sometimes perform security missions for the division here (Guard, Co

# **SECURITY MISSIONS**

- 1. SCREEN**
- 2. GUARD**
- 3. COVER**

# **MAIN BATTLE AREA**

- **Generally the area between the FEBA and brigade rear boundary.**
- **Brigades array the bulk of their forces in area.**
- **Bulk of engineer effort, battle positions, engagement areas.**

# **RESERVE**

- Size, composition, and location of reserve dependent on threat assessment (METT-T)**
- Task and purpose of reserve force determined during the wargaming process.**
- Committed at the decisive point of the battle to ensure enemy defeat.**

# **RESERVE OPERATIONS**

- Commitment of the reserve is the command's most critical decision during the defense.
- Once committed, the reserve becomes the main effort.
- Primary purpose is to regain the initiative.
  1. Counterattack.
  2. Spoiling attack.
  3. Raid.

**Flanks or rear.**

# **RESERVE OPERATIONS**

## **(cont)**

- The reserve can also be used to:
  1. Block penetrations.
  2. Contain enemy that has penetrated.
  3. React to rear area and flank threats.
  4. Relieve depleted units (reinforce).

# **REAR OPERATIONS**

- **Includes self protection and LOC maintenance**
- **Brigades normally assign a TCF.**
- **Brigades may be the TCF for division or corps**

# **SYNCHRONIZATION**

- To focus combat power, the command designates a main effort.**
- All other forces' actions are linked to main effort to provide cohesion and synchronization.**
- Synchronization is organized by BOS**

# **INTELLIGENCE**

- Bde S2 focused on the IPB, specifically:**
  - 1. Composition, equipment, strengths and weaknesses of the enemy.**
  - 2. Location, speed, and direction of enemy**
  - 3. Follow-on forces.**
  - 4. Enemy C2.**
  - 5. Brigade AO and battlespace (terrain anal**

# **AVIATION MANEUVER**

- Key to regaining the initiative through in speed, lethality, agility, and flexibility.

**Can conduct:**

- 1. Reconnaissance.**
- 2. Attacks/defenses.**
- 3. Air assaults (w/infantry).**
- 4. Cover/guard (with ground maneuver)**

# **FIRE SUPPORT**

- FS assets used to disrupt and weaken the  
and provide opportunities for the counteratt
- Brigades normally employ centralized cont  
of FS in the defense.

# **FIRE SUPPORT**

## **(cont)**

**- FSCOORD focuses planning on the following tasks:**

- 1. Engaging the enemy early and throughout brigade AO.**
- 2. Supporting rear operations.**
- 3. Deep fires to delay/disrupt follow-on units.**
- 4. Screen friendly units.**
- 5. Counterfire and obstacle integration.**

# **AIR DEFENSE**

- **Passive and active defense measures.**
- **Priorities of protection:**
  1. C2.
  2. Covering force.
  3. FS.
  4. BSA.
- **Positioned to achieve mass (centralized)**

# **MOBILITY AND** **SURVIVABILITY**

- Priority of effort:
  1. Security zone - mobility for passing up then countermobility against threat.
  2. MBA - tradeoff between cmob / surv.
  3. Rear - mobility then survivability for C reserve, CSS.
- Defensive ops require centralized management

# **NBC**

- Commander continuously plans for the possible enemy use of NBC weapons.
- Commander plans for decon priorities.
- NBC recon focuses on clean and dirty areas, routes, and decon sites that directly affect operations.

# CSS

- Bde S4 and FSB Cdr must understand Bde intent.
- Key concerns are real estate management rear area threats.
- Other considerations include:
  1. Prestock supplies (CL IV,V).
  2. Fix as far forward as possible.
  3. Push supply so flow is uninterrupted in event of commo malfunction.

# **COMMAND AND**

# **CONTROL**

- Commanders will not wait for a complete OPORD to conduct planning (WARNOs).
- Command posts:
  1. TAC.
  2. Main.
  3. Rear.

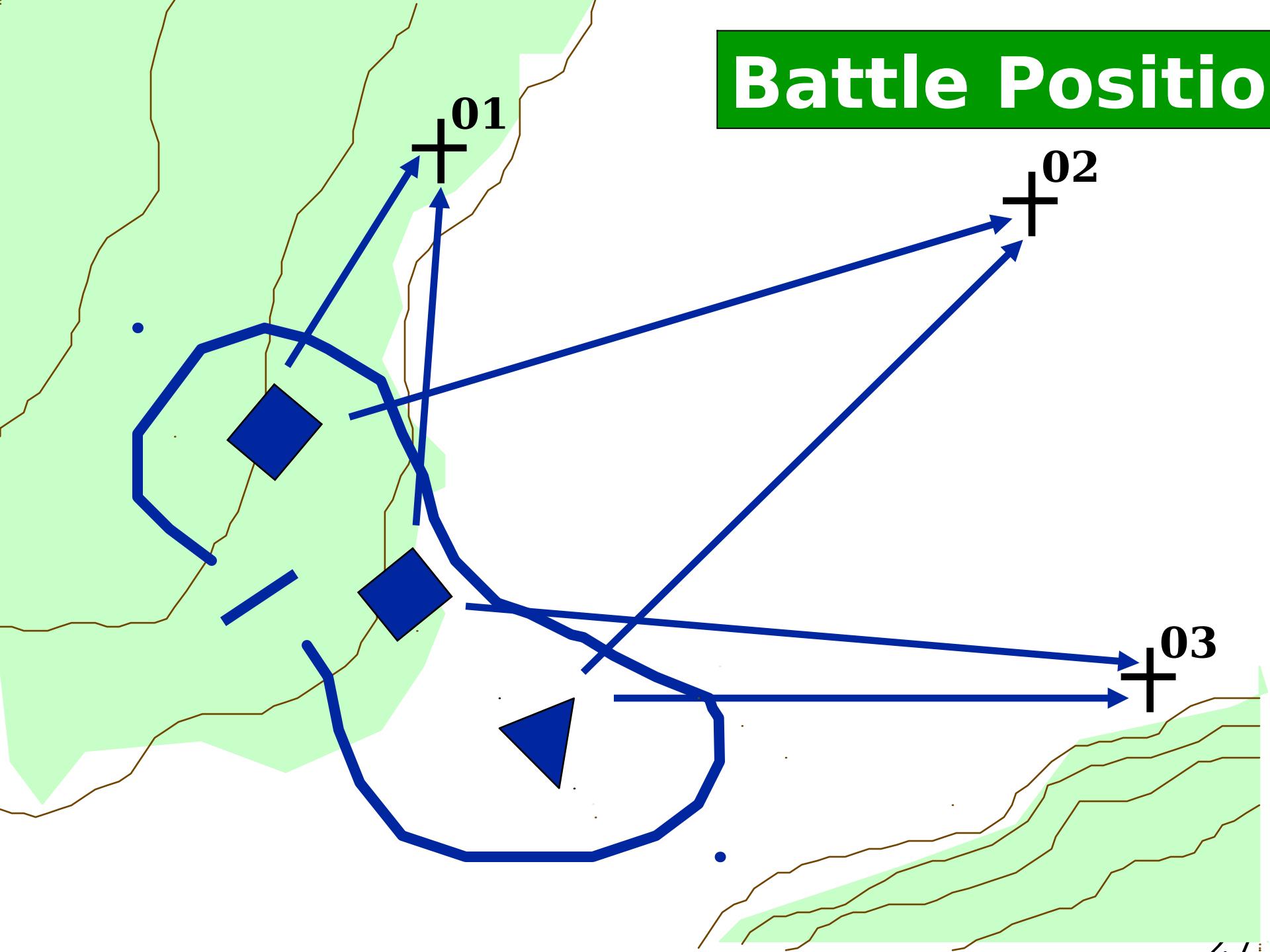
# **AREA DEFENSE**

- Purpose: Retention of terrain or facilities for a specified time
- Conducted as part of a division or corps defense
- May elect to defend forward or in depth
- May assign sectors or battle positions
- May involve the establishment of a strongpoint

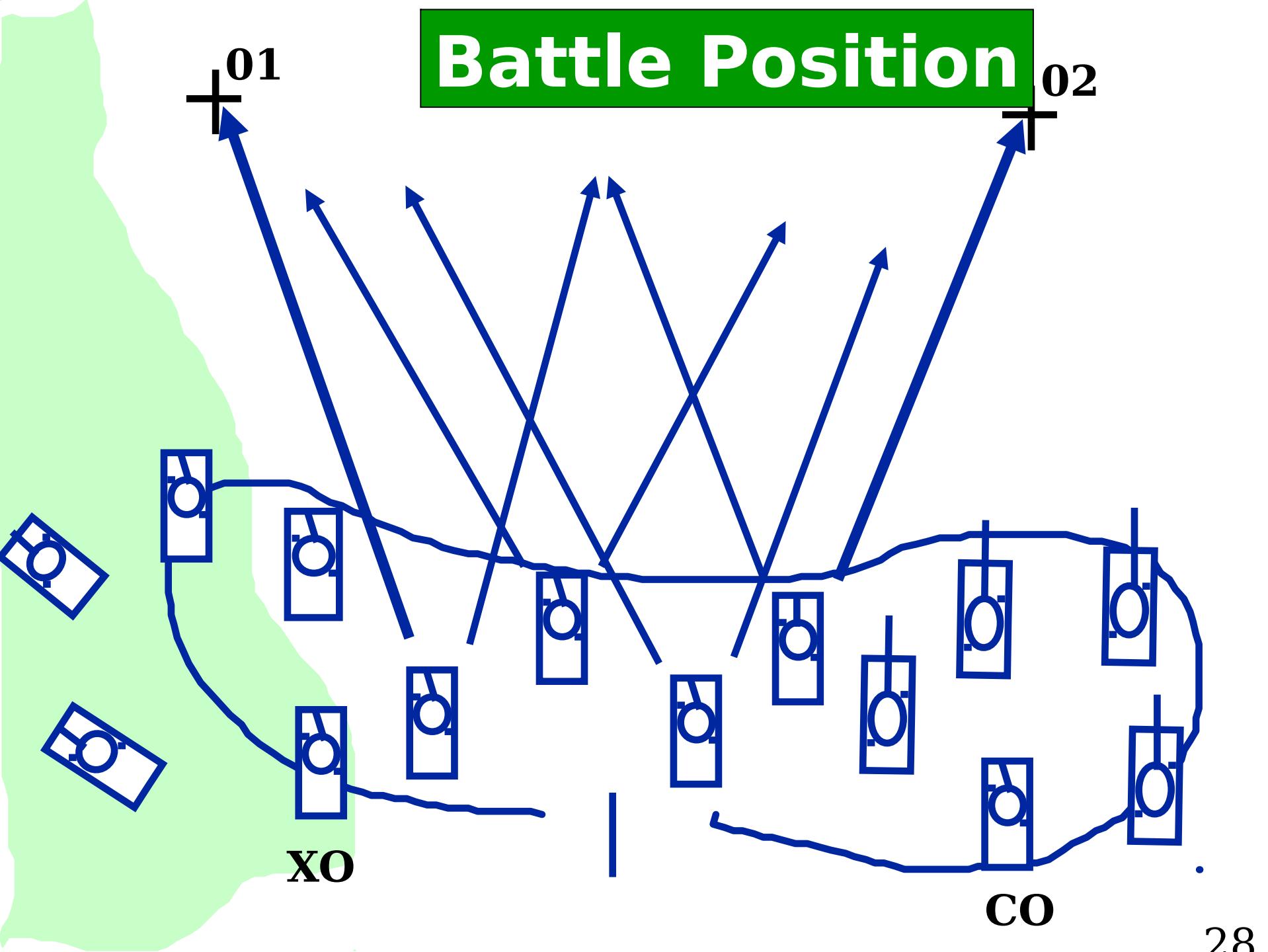
# **TYPES OF DEFENSE**

- 1. BATTLE POSITION**
- 2. STRONGPOINT**
- 3. SECTOR**

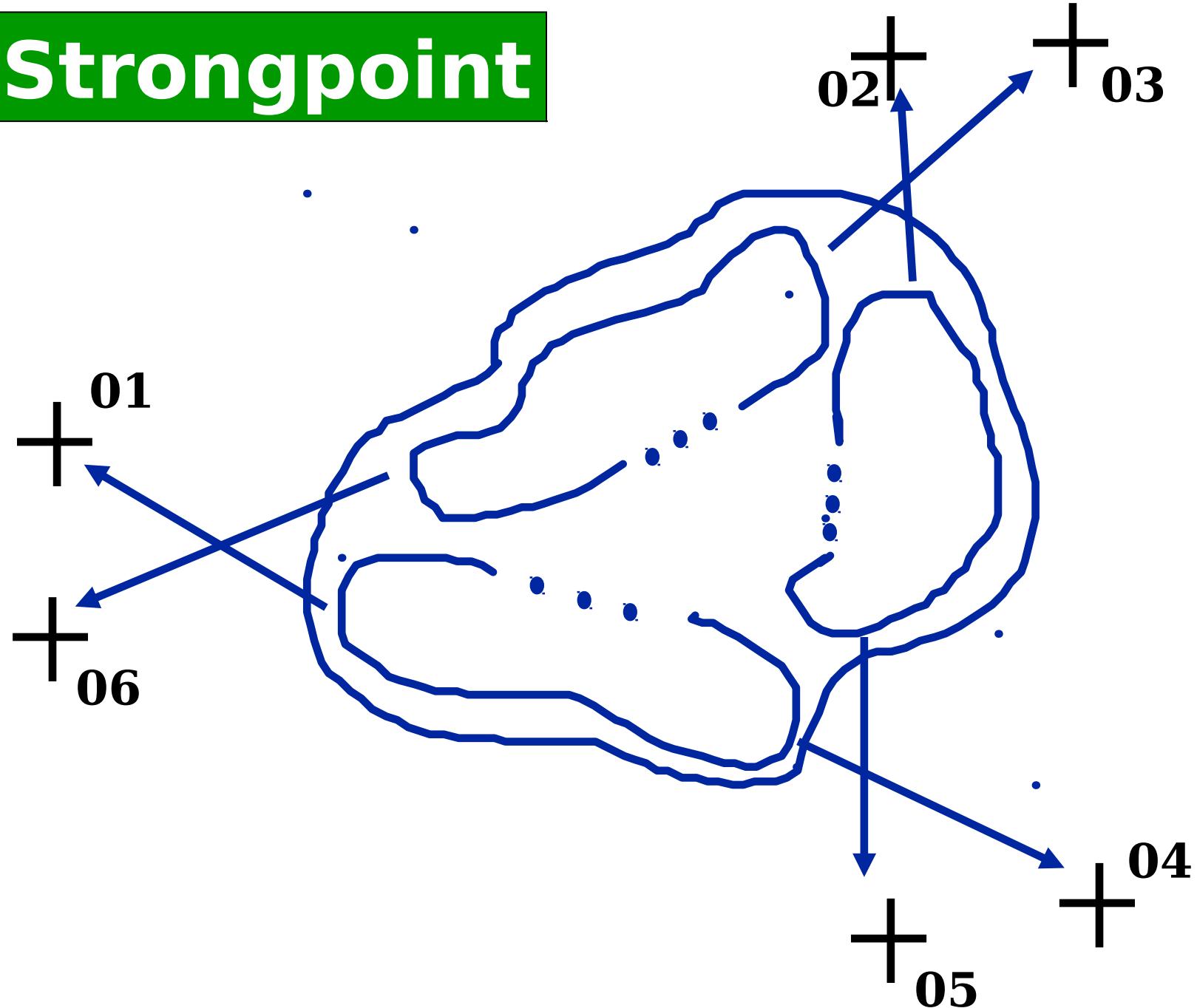
# Battle Positio



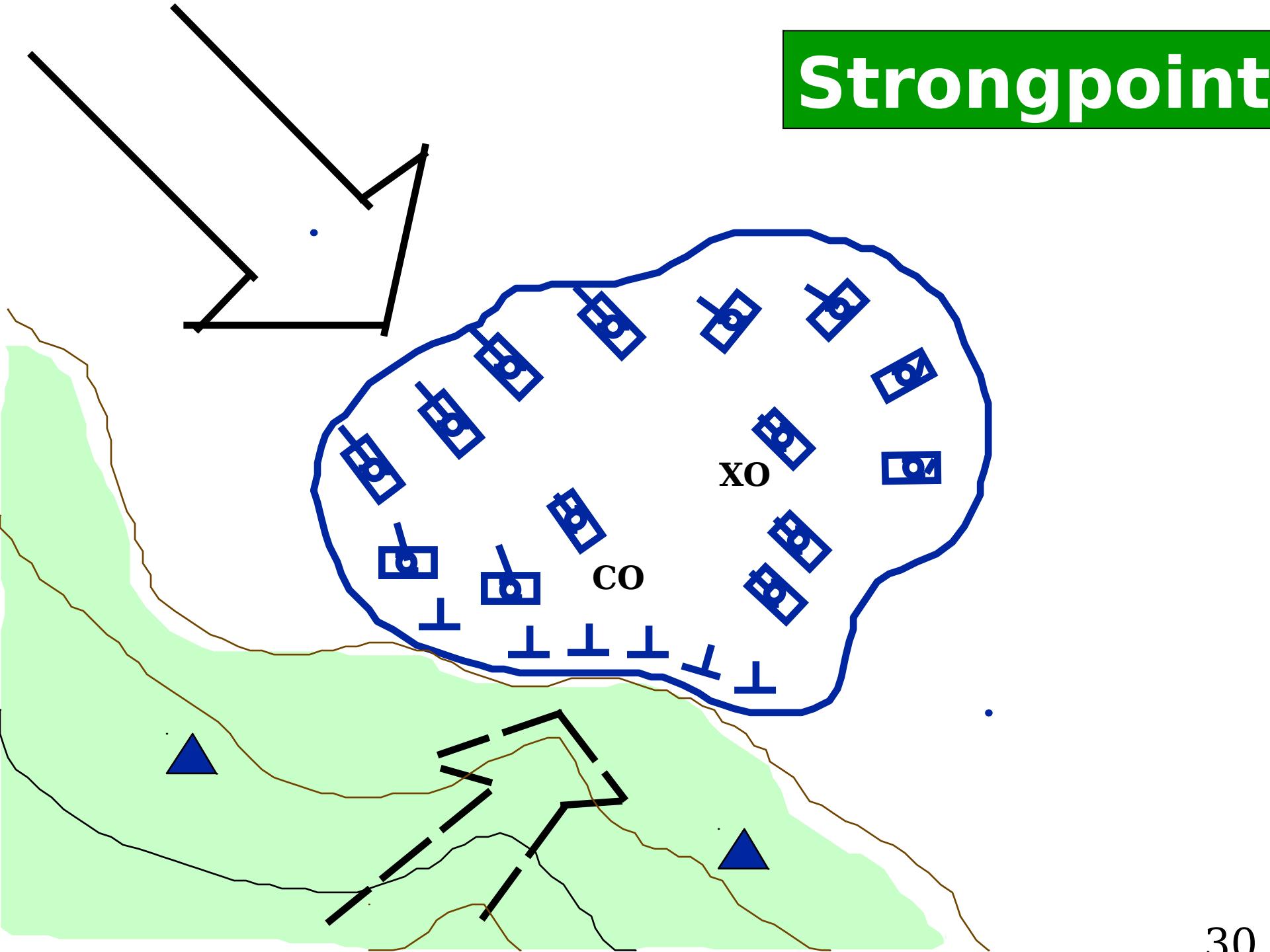
# Battle Position



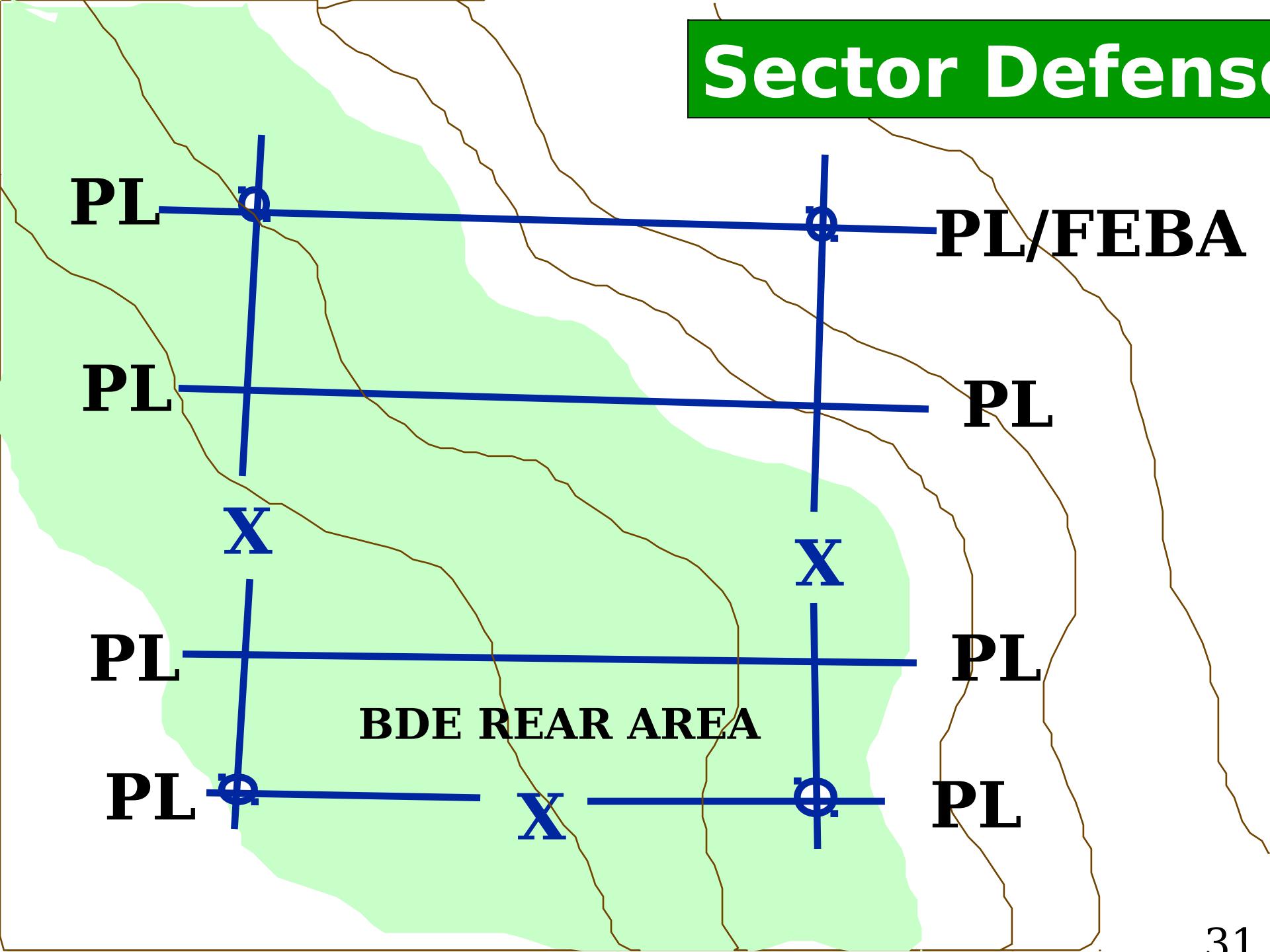
# Strongpoint



# Strongpoint

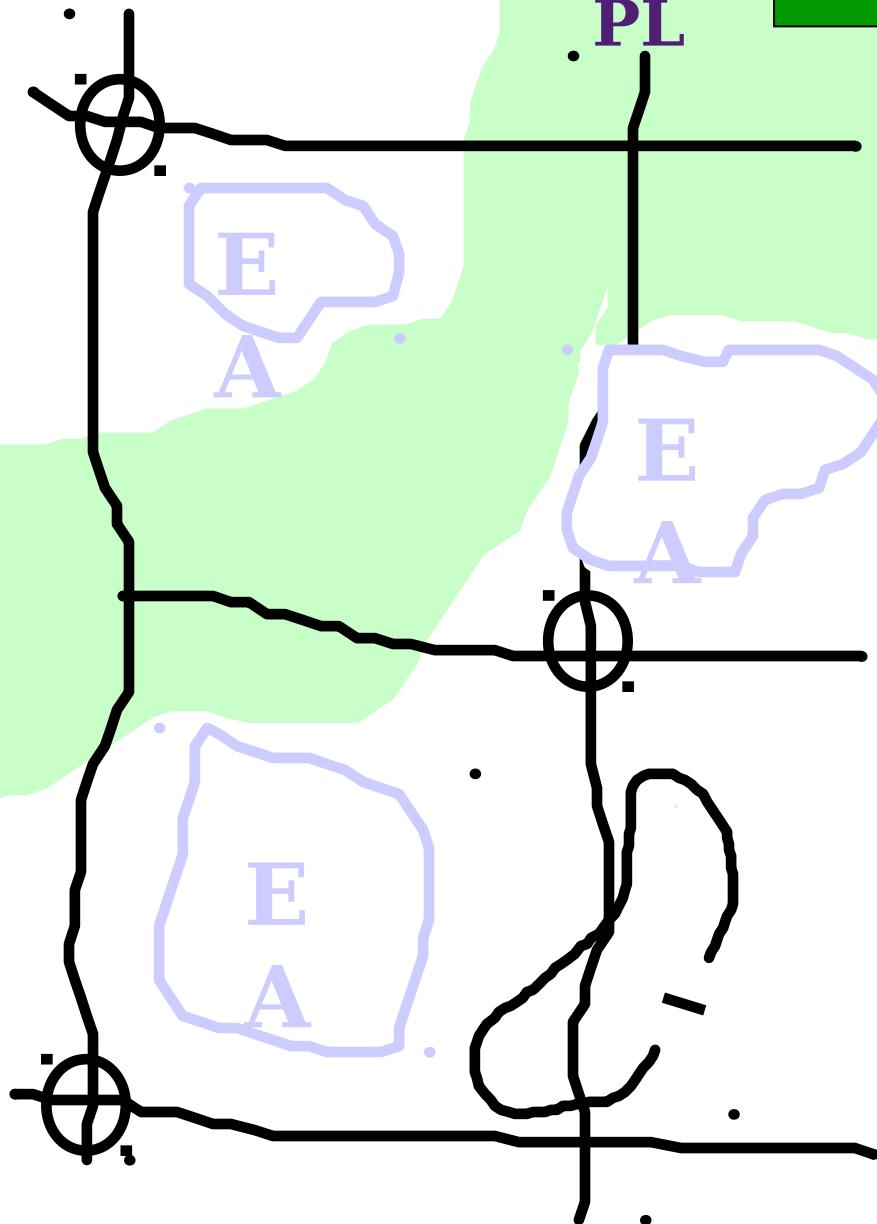


# Sector Defense



# Sector

PL/FEBA



PL

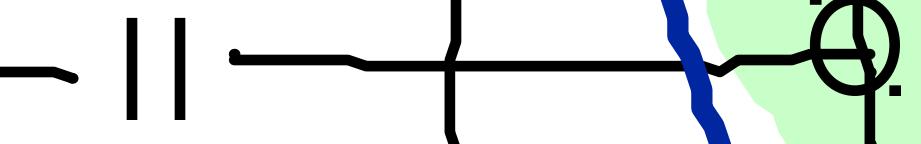
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# MOBILE DEFENSE

- Purpose: Orients on the destruction of the attacking force by permitting the enemy to maneuver to a position of disadvantage that exposes him to a striking force.
- Not generally conducted by a brigade, but may be
- Employs a covering force, a fixing force, a striking force, and a reserve force
- Assumes a high degree of risk

# **COMPARISON OF MOBILE AND AREA DEFENSE**

- Mobile Defense
  - Orients on the enemy
  - Mobility greater than or equal to the enemy
  - Defend with minimum force
  - Fire and maneuver
  - Striking force
  - Striking force used at the decisive
- Area Defense
  - Deny enemy access to designated terrain for a specific time
  - Mutual supporting positions and in depth
  - Defend with maximum force
  - Interlocking fires
  - Smaller mobile reserve for local counterattacks

# **RETROGRADE** **OPERATIONS**

- **Definition:**

An organized movement to the rear or away from the enemy. The operation may be forced by enemy action, or it may be executed voluntarily. **In either case, must be approved by the higher commander.**

# RETROGRADE OPERATIONS

## Delay



An operation conducted to inflict maximum delay and damage on an advancing enemy without becoming decisively engaged.

- **Planning**

- Conducted by Brigade or Larger Unit

- **Preparation**

- Movement Plan
  - Logistics Plan

- **Execution**

- Integrate Aviation Assets

# RETROGRADE OPERATIONS

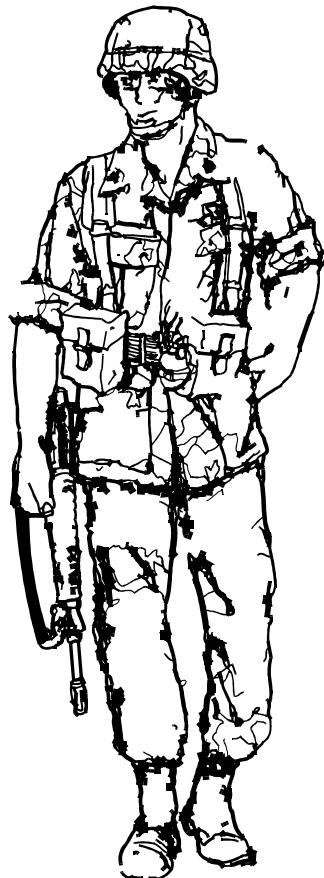


## **Withdrawal:**

Disengagement from the enemy, either unassisted or assisted by another force.

- **Planning**
  - Phased Operations
- **Preparation**
  - Coordinated Rearward Passage of Lines
    - > BHL
    - > PPs
    - > FSCMs
- **Execution**

# RETROGRADE OPERATIONS



## **Retirement:**

An operation in which a force not in contact moves away from the enemy.

- Planning**

- Tank-Heavy Rear Guard Supported by FA, ADA, and TACAIR Normally Required

- Preparation**

- Coordinated BHL and FSCMs
  - Rehearsal

- Execution**

# **OTHER DEFENSIVE**

# **ROLES**

- 1. Tactical Combat Force (TCF).**
- 2. Offensive operations across the FLO while the majority of the division or corps defends.**
- 3. Retain key terrain.**

# SUMMARY

# QUESTIONS

# ENABLING LEARNING

## OBJECTIVES

- Discuss the organization, capabilities, and limitations of the Heavy Maneuver Brigade.
- Discuss the conduct of offensive operations at the brigade level.
- Discuss the conduct of defensive operations at the brigade level.
- Discuss the conduct of other tactical operations at the brigade level.

# TERMINAL LEARNING

## OBJECTIVE

**ACTION:** Apply the BDE fight concept to operational planning.

**CONDITIONS:** Given information on a tactical situation while serving as the plans officer in the BDE S3 section, commander's guidance, appropriate references, and the requirement to develop a BDE plan of operations.

**STANDARD:** Develop a course of action that is safe, feasible, and acceptable based on the current tactical situation in accordance with the fundamentals of offensive, defensive, and retrograde operations.